

Connecting ideas in a sentence and between sentences

A

Some words and phrases (*sentence connectors*) are used to connect one sentence with a previous sentence or sentences. Often (but not always) these go at the beginning of the sentence:

- There was no heating in the building. **As a result**, the workers had to be sent home.

Other words and phrases (*conjunctions*) are used to connect clauses *within* a single sentence:

- While** I was waiting, I read a magazine.
- I stood up **so that** I could see better.

type of connection	sentence connectors	conjunctions
comparing, contrasting, and indicating that a situation (in the main clause) is unexpected	after all, all the same, alternatively, anyway, by contrast, even so, however (<i>but see C</i>), in any case, in contrast, instead, nevertheless, on the contrary, on the other hand	although, even though, though, whereas, while, yet
reasons and results	as a consequence, as a result, consequently, for one thing, so; hence, in consequence, therefore, thus (<i>the last four are rather formal</i>)	as, because, for, in that, since, insofar as, so, so that
adding information	above all, after all, also, besides, furthermore, in addition, likewise, moreover, similarly, what's more; as well, too (<i>the last two are not used at the beginning of a sentence</i>)	
condition	if not, if so, otherwise	as long as, assuming (that), if, on condition that, provided (that), so long as, supposing (that), unless
time: one event at the same time as another	at that time, at the same time, meanwhile	as, when, whenever, while
time: one event before or after another	after, after that, afterwards, before, before that, earlier, later, previously, soon, subsequently, then	after, as soon as, before, since, until

Note that **after**, **before** and **so** can be both connectors and conjunctions.

We can't use a sentence connector on its own with a comma to connect clauses *within* one sentence (e.g. *not* I expect to be promoted, if not I'll leave).

However, a sentence connector can be used to connect two clauses in one sentence if the clauses are joined with **and**, **but**, **or**, **so**, or a **semi-colon** (;), **colon** (:), or **dash** (-):

- The building was extremely well constructed **and**, **as a result**, difficult to demolish.
- You could fly via Singapore; **however**, this isn't the only way.

B

Even though is a conjunction used to say that a fact doesn't make the rest of the sentence untrue (see also Unit 82B). It connects ideas *within* a sentence:

- Even though** it was midday, I put on the light.

Even so is a sentence connector used to introduce a fact that is surprising in the context of what was just said. It connects ideas *between* sentences:

- It was midday. **Even so**, I put on the light.

C

However is often used as a sentence connector, but it can also be used –

☆ as an adverb when it is followed by an **adjective**, **adverb**, or **much / many**:

- We just don't have the money to do the work, **however necessary** you think it is.

☆ as a conjunction when it means 'in whatever way':

- However** she held the mirror, she couldn't see the back of her neck.

Exercises

87.1 Choose items from (i) and from (ii) to complete these texts in an appropriate way. Note the punctuation at the ends of the sentences and phrases already given. **A & B.**

(i)

alternatively
as long as
for one thing
meanwhile
otherwise
~~so that~~
while
yet

(ii)

~~everybody had their fair share~~
you could poison them
his face seemed familiar
it's too expensive
the rent was paid on time
the street was deserted
the volcano continues to erupt
we were on holiday

- 1 Mara cut the cake carefully into slices *so that everybody had their fair share.*
- 2 A small boy was kicking a ball against a wall;
- 3 I couldn't remember meeting him before,
- 4 A mass evacuation of islanders is taking place.
- 5 A: Why don't you like that new French restaurant?
B:
- 6 Ingrid came down with flu
- 7 My landlady didn't mind me having parties in my room
- 8 One way of getting rid of weeds is to dig them out.

87.2 Underline the correct option. **A-C**

- 1 Your essay is badly organised and full of spelling mistakes. *Though / Nevertheless*, it contains some very interesting ideas.
- 2 To the east the trees were left standing, *while / in contrast* to the west they were cut down.
- 3 I felt guilty about leaving the company *even so / even though* I knew it was the right decision.
- 4 The course taught me a lot about astronomy. *Even though / Even so*, there is still a lot to learn.
- 5 I expected my mother to be happy with the news. *Instead / Although* she started to cry.
- 6 Herbs are usually grown in temperate climates, *whereas / on the other hand* spices are mainly from tropical areas.
- 7 We were very short of money *so / as a consequence* we had to spend the night on a park bench.
- 8 I turned the ignition, but the car wouldn't start. *As / Meanwhile* the lions were getting ever closer.
- 9 She wrote the questions on the whiteboard *while / at the same time* the students copied them into their books.
- 10 *Previously / Before* I went to Australia, I'd never seen a koala.
- 11 I'll have to buy some ladders *unless / if not* I can borrow a pair from Harry.
- 12 I first met Connor in the 1970s. *At that time / When* he had long hair and a beard.

87.3 Use your own ideas to complete the sentences. Begin **however + adjective / adverb / many / much.** **C**

- 1 She is determined to be a successful artist, *however difficult it might be to achieve.*
- 2, it is difficult to lose weight without cutting down on the amount you eat.
- 3, it is important to spend some time apart.
- 4 Professor Malcolm is always happy to spend time with his students,
- 5, it never fails to impress me.
- 6 Some people never seem content,